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## News & Views - Vol. 03, No. 07 - January 17, 1985

University of Massachusetts Boston

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UMass/Boston



# News & Views

*Newsletter of the  
Office of Public Information*

## Briefly . . .

The position of Director of the Freiburg/Baden-Wuerttemberg Program for 1986-87 is now open. Candidates must be tenured members of the UMass faculty with a doctorate, fluent in German and experienced in graduate and undergraduate advising. They also should have the approval of their departmental chair.

Interested persons are invited to submit their curriculum vitae to Professor Nina Scott, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Herter Hall, UMass/Amherst, Amherst, MA., 01003.

Additional information is available from Bette Davis, Director of Office of International Exchange; Harold Bronk, General Center, CPCS, or John Dickinson, Sociology, CAS. Applications must be received by March 1, 1985.

Dr. James Blackwell sends word that former UMass/Boston colleague Herman James has been appointed President of Glassboro State University, New Jersey. Dr. Herman was a member of the Dept. of Sociology from 1972-77. During part of that time he served as Associate Provost and worked closely with Chancellor Carlo Golino and Vice Chancellor Robert Spaethling. His inauguration will take place this Spring.

Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan has been named an Honorary Member of the Dorchester Historical Society.

Congratulations to Dean James Jennings of the College of Public and Community Service for being named by Gov. Michael S. Dukakis a member of the Special Commission Relative to Planning Appropriate Events to Commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Arrival of Africans to Massachusetts.



A study at night — the Joseph P. Healey Library

## Dr. Sugumaran awarded \$700,000 grant from NIH for research

A \$700,000 grant was awarded a UMass/Boston biologist by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Tropical Disease Unit. The award is the largest ever received for pure research at the University.

Dr. Manickam Sugumaran, 35, a research biologist and professor of biochemistry, received the three-year funding from the NIH to continue the study of the structure and development of the outer shell or cuticle coating of mosquitoes, cockroaches and flesh-flies. The shell helps protect the insects.

"These disease-carrying insects, primarily in Third World nations, have brief molting cycles when they shed their

old cuticle and develop a new one. For example, the mosquito sheds and grows a new cuticle within two hours," said Dr. Sugumaran, a native of Madras, India.

During this process, the insects' coating is soft, pale in color and defenseless. These insects are major health problems in Third World nations.

"By detailing body structure and molting cycle we can develop a new type of pesticide that can arrest the cuticle-development and kill insects without affecting other organisms," said Dr. Sugumaran.

Dr. Sugumaran joined the UMass/Boston research project of the late Dr. Herbert Lipke, in 1979.

Hockey forward Joe Bulens of Weymouth was voted the Lawrence F. Curran Memorial Award for sportsmanship at the recent Codfish Bowl tournament held at Clark Athletic Center.

Dr. Perry Miller, Professor of Education of the ILT Elementary Education Program, has been named to a federal appeals board within the Selective Service System in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Miller will sit on the Civilian Review Board which deals with challenges by adjudicated conscientious objectors in regard to their alternate work assignments.

A former Air Force major, Dr. Miller holds a doctorate in counseling psychology. For 25 years he was the director of the elementary education graduate program at Boston State.

Patricia Monteith, GM of campus radio station WUMB-FM, announced that the station has been approved by the Federal Communications Commission to boost its power and increase its antenna height.

This should clear chronic reception problems in downtown Boston and Cambridge and also increase the station's coverage area in South Shore communities.

WUMB-FM, incidentally, recently was the recipient of a Communication Award presented by the South Shore regional office of the American Red Cross. Advisory Board member Julie Ahern accepted the award "for outstanding public service."



## profile

# Dr. Philip Hart uncovers history of the "Black Lindbergh"



Dr. Philip Hart, 39, Associate Professor of Sociology at UMass/Boston, thinks it helps kids adjust during childhood and learn better when they have heroes with whom they can identify.

That's why it's important to teach about the great people of the past, he says. It sparks idealism in the young and creates a positive attitude about their own future.

Until recently, however, Hart's own childhood hero wasn't recognized in history books for public school children. He and his family were sole custodians of a tiny flame of fame that was kept burning for more than five decades for the man Hart says is now recognized as America's "Black Lindbergh."

It is partly through Hart's research which started as a labor of family pride when he was a teenager in Denver, Col. and has continued into his adult life as a

key academic pursuit, that J. Herman Banning, pioneer aviator extraordinaire and the first black pilot ever to receive a license to fly from the United States government, finally has been publicly recognized.

J. Herman Banning was Hart's great uncle. He was the 1324th person to get his flying license from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and the first black. He was the first black pilot to fly transcontinental from Los Angeles to New York.

Banning and his mechanic, Thomas Allen, touched down in their tiny plane at Long Island, N.Y. on October 9, 1932 after a 21 day flight from Los Angeles.

"There was big fanfare about the flight," Hart recalled. "My uncle was given the keys to the city of New York by Mayor Jimmy Walker and they were toasted in Harlem complete with the Cab Callaway and Duke Ellington orchestras."

Banning wrote a diary-type column for several weeks in a Pittsburgh newspaper. Then . . . he and his partner and most of the black pioneer aviators of their day . . . were forgotten.

Young Hart in Denver, his mother, brothers Chris and Judd, and their grandmother, Virginia Banning Shaw, the aviator's sister, did not forget, however. Because they did not stint of their time, patience, and whatever money they could spare, Banning is now in an impressive history book available to school children all over the world.

It is called "Black Wings . . . The American Black in Aviation," and is published by the prestigious Smithsonian Institute which also opened an exhibit of the black aviators in 1982, followed by the creation of two touring exhibits. (One is scheduled to visit Boston's Museum of Science in the spring of 1986.)

Hart said the Smithsonian has also developed kits with the same title as its published books for elementary and secondary school classrooms.

The kits are distributed by the National Audio-Visual Center and include, National Aerospace film strips, users guides, background information, audio cassettes that tell the story about black flyers from the beginning of modern aviation to the astronauts. (Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford, the first black to fly in space aboard the U.S. shuttle *Challenger*, carried a copy of "Black Wings" with him.)

"A number of school districts have ordered the kits and are doing a module on black aviators," Hart reported. He has purchased some of the kits himself, and distributed them to independent schools.

"I like the story because the early black aviators, my uncle included, were really like the American ideal of self-reliance, rugged individualism," Hart said his research showed.

"If they wanted to learn to fly and they were black, they were discriminated against because many flying schools wouldn't accept them even though they had the money to pay. Yet they all eventually learned how to fly. They bought their own airplanes, they paid for their own gas and oil, they did their own maintenance, they organized flying clubs, did air shows and this was during the depression so it wasn't easy," he continued.

"They exhibited interest in a field and pursued it in a way we consider to be the American ideal, following an idea irrespective of what obstacles might confront them."

The rebuff of indifference and disinterest by everyone approached by Hart, and before him his grandmother, to have the black aviators included in school, museum, library and other public exhibits, even those sponsored for Black History Month when it became important, melted after September, 1982 and the Smithsonian display, Hart said.

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## Dr. Ruth Butler reappointed chair of College Board Committee



Dr. Ruth A. Butler, professor of art history at UMass/Boston, has been reappointed chair of the College Board Development Committee in Advanced Placement Art History.

The committee's charge includes specifying the kinds of knowledge and skills to be measured, writing and reviewing examination questions, and advising of policies and services.

The College Board is a nonprofit association with a membership of over 2,500 schools and school systems, colleges and universities, associations and scholarship agencies.

Dr. Butler earned her bachelor's degree in art at Western Reserve University in Cleveland; her Ph.D. in art history at New York University; was a Boston University instructor for four years; a lecturer at Stanford University's Florence campus for two years and an assistant professor at the University of Maryland before she came to UMass/Boston in 1973.

In 1983 she served as Mellon Professor at the University of Pittsburgh for the Spring semester.

## Dr. Harold Horton appointed Academic Coordinator for athletes

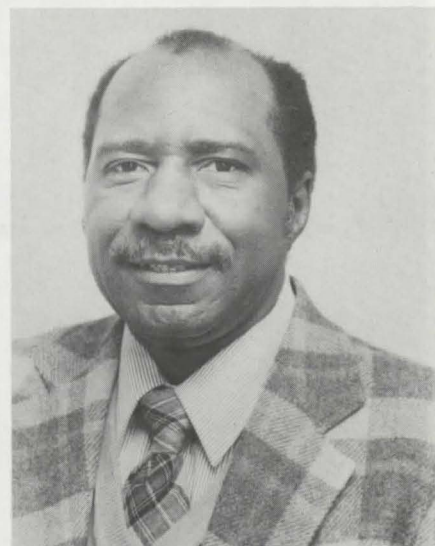
Dr. Harold Horton has been named Academic Coordinator for the Athletic Department at UMass/Boston, it was announced by Athletic Director Charlie Titus.

Dr. Horton was named to the Capital University (Ohio) Hall of Fame in 1982 after starring there in football, baseball and basketball as well as achieving major academic goals.

He previously served as Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Advisement at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In addition he has served at University of Connecticut and the State University of New York and was Principal of Oberlin Junior High School, Oberlin, Ohio.

Dr. Horton monitors the academic progress of all student athletes and acts as a liaison with faculty.

"Bridging the gap between faculty and the athletic department is what this job is all about," said Dr. Horton. "We're here to help the student athlete prepare for a career and life."



**Dr. Harold Horton**

Dr. Horton is a committee member on the American Educational Research Ass'n.

## Ronald Ancrum named to Council of Access Services of College Board



**Ronald Ancrum**

Ronald E. Ancrum, Director of Admissions at UMass/Boston, has been appointed a member of the Council of Access Services of the College Board.

Ancrum will serve a three-year term from October, 1984-1987.

The Council on Access Services advises and makes recommendations on College Board services that involve helping students make informed decisions about their education and providing access to institutions of higher education.

In particular, the Council is concerned with the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the Career Skills Assessment Program (CSAP) and Admissions Testing Program (ATP).

## Dr. Robert Hatcher to speak on birth control at UMB lecture

Dr. Robert Hatcher, co-author of *Contraceptive Technology*, considered by many the international bible of birth control, will speak at UMass/Boston on Wednesday, January 23.

In addition to directing the Family Planning Program at Emory University-Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and teaching at Emory University School of Medicine, Dr. Hatcher is a Visiting

Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and a consultant to family planning organizations world-wide.

Title of his talk: "Contraceptive Technology Update: Benefits and Risks."

It will be held in Wheatley Hall (Bldg. 010), first floor auditorium, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Admission is free.

Please register by calling 929-7111.

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Codfish Bowl hockey tournament drew attention to the Harbor Campus during the holiday recess. Defending champion UMass/Boston lost to St. Anselm's in the final. Here, left to right, are UMass/Boston captain Andy Larrow of Holyoke, varsity coach Joe Mallen, Chancellor Robert A. Corrigan and Associate Athletic Director Mary Barrett.

## VET Program begins day and evening classes January 14th

The Veteran's Educational Training Program (VET) at UMass/Boston will hold Day and Evening GED and College Preparatory classes beginning Monday, January 14, 1985.

VET Program courses are designed to develop basic English, Math, Social Studies and Reading skills leading to either a General Educational Diploma or Advanced Educational or Vocational Training. Counseling as well as intensive tutorial support are provided.

The VET Program is tuition-free and is approved by the Veterans' Administration. Students enrolled in the Program are eligible for VA benefits.

Vietnam-era and Female Veterans are encouraged to apply to either Day or Evening Programs.

Application deadline is January 14. For further information contact Kevin Bowen or Julia Perez, VET Program, UMass/Boston, Harbor Campus, Boston, MA 02125 or Telephone: 929-7865.

## The story of J. Herman Banning

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Since then Hart has registered a manuscript he wrote called the "Flying Hobos," with the Writer's Guild of America. Four major film studios, including Disney, are interested in developing it into a movie. It tells the story of his uncle and partner until Banning's death in a 1933 San Diego plane crash.

With money from a California Council for the Humanities grant, the young sociologist expanded his research to include other black pioneer aviators who came before, during and after his uncle's time for a documentary called "In Search of a Dream." He has just finished the script for this, co-authoring it with his wife, Tanya Hart of WBZ-TV. The script centers around those black pilots who were taught to fly at the Bessie Coleman School and Aero Club in Los Angeles and who flew generally on the West Coast. (Bessie Coleman was the first black American woman pilot. She went to France to get a flying license in 1921.)

Finally, with a UMass/Boston Joseph P. Healey Grant, Hart says he plans to expand his research and include Chicago which was the second locale for early black aviators. He is writing a book that will be "a combination of photographs and text of early black aviators."

Hart does not consider himself a traditional sociologist. He teaches in the General Education Center of the College of Public and Community Service, an interdisciplinary department that includes sociologists, an anthropologist, a couple of economists and political scientists. Its curriculum was organized, Hart said, to really see how career areas and liberal arts could be integrated.

Hart's background was in communication, he said, and since joining the university staff in 1973, he has been involved in community programs including the Southwest Corridor project. He helped bring Digital Equipment Corp. to Roxbury, and the work he did in 1974 on a study of jury selection in Suffolk County led to changing methods that were



J. Herman Banning

found to discriminate against women, young people, and minorities.

"Once again, I'm not being traditional, I suppose," Hart said. "The work about black aviators is not strictly sociology, but it is going to lead to significant things."